The City of New York

DEPARTMENT OF AIR RESOURCES
51 Astor Place, New York, N.Y. 10003

ROBERT N. RICKLES, P.E., Commissioner

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
PX-540

Carolyn Konheim
566-2716

FOR RELEASE: FRI. APR. 24, 1970

The first show cause order on the sealing of asbestos spraying equipment is returnable at 10 A M today at a hearing in the office of Air Resources Commissioner Robert N. Rickles

The order was served on the contractor at the World Trade Center for continuing to spray the dangerous material without complying with the stringent handling of cleanup procedures instituted by Commissioner's order Monday. April 13th. These interim regulations, the nation's first to control asbestos pollution, are attached. Final regulations will be written after full public hearings on the entire question of asbestos use.

In the Commissioner's affidavit on the show cause order. Dr. Rickles stated that "exposure to asbestos particulate may result in lung cancer, mesothelioma and cancer of the peritoneum or the pleura. Medical research has not as yet established safe levels of exposure to asbestos containing particulate However, there is evidence that short exposure at relatively low levels has caused cancer to develop many years after the initial exposure."

The City agency has been investigating the newly identified form of air pollution with asbestos experts at Mount Sinai's

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Environmental Services Laboratory since last summer.

Since the regulations were issued on April 11th, each of six active asbestos spraying sites have been kept under surveillance by departmental inspectors. In serving summonses on sites where there is an active spraying, air pollution inspectors must be garbed in the protective coveralls and respirators, the rules required for anyone entering the site.

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